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The ClueFinders 3rd Grade Adventures: The Mystery of Mathra

The ClueFinders 3rd Grade Adventures: The Mystery of Mathra is a computer game in The Learning Company's *ClueFinders* series where the ClueFinders save the Numerian rainforest and Dr. Horace Pythagoras from a mysterious monster called Mathra. The game was re-released as *The ClueFinders: Mystery of the Monkey Kingdom* in 2001.

The game is the first in the series and depicts the first meeting of the ClueFinders and LapTrap, who goes on to appear in all the other *ClueFinders* games. The game ends with LapTrap being given to the ClueFinders and, in this respect, *The Mystery of Mathra* can be seen as an origin story for the rest of the series.

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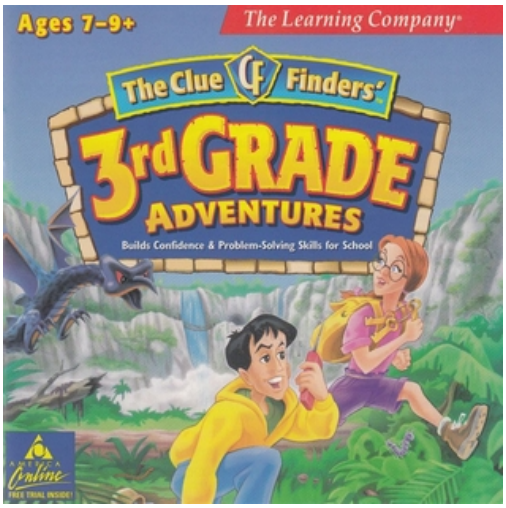

Developer	The Learning Company
Publisher	The Learning Company
Platforms	Windows, Macintosh
Release	January 1998
Genre	Educational/Adventure/Mystery
Mode	Single-player

Plot

A great city was built over 1000 years ago in the Numerian rainforest somewhere in South America, until a dragon-like monster named Mathra invaded. After Mathra was captured, the Numerians abandoned their city and sealed the entrance and hid the two halves of the key in the far corners of the rainforest - one in the Monkey Kingdom and one in the Goo Lagoon. Recently, animals have started to disappear in the rainforest once again, along with Joni's uncle Dr. Pythagoras. Mr. Limburger flies the ClueFinders in his airplane and briefs them on the events going on. The ClueFinders set off to find the lost doctor, animals and the keys to the Lost Numerian City. Evidence that they find, however suggests that there is more to those disappearances than the 1000 year old monster as well as a sinister plot behind it.

Gameplay

The game has 22 different activities divided among four different areas of the rainforest, each with their own skill and goal. The first seven activities cover Mathematics, followed by seven Logic activities, two activities on Geography, four on Science and finally two on Language Arts. The game contains a number of parodies of and allusions to popular culture and other topics.

Critical reception

The game won the 1998 Gold Award from Parents' Choice.[4] During the Opening Day of the Bologna Children's Book Fair on Thursday, April 8, 1999, the game was awarded the Bologna New Media Prize for the Best Logical Thinking Program.[4]

Reception

Review scores	
Publication	**Score**
AllGame	4/5[1]
Review Corner	5/5[2]
Awards	
Publication	**Award**
Parents' Choice	Gold Award 1998[3]
Bologna New Media Prize	Best Logical Thinking Program 1999[4]
Review Corner	Award of Excellence[2]

References

1. T.J. Deci. "*The ClueFinders 3rd Grade Adventures: The Mystery of Mathra* - Review - allgame" (https://web.archive.org/web/20141212011524/http://www.allgame.com/game.php?id=21547&tab=review). Allgame. Archived from the original (http://www.allgame.com/game.php?id=21547&tab=review) on December 12, 2014. Retrieved April 4, 2017.
2. "The ClueFinders 3rd Grade Adventures: The Mystery of Mathra - Review Corner" (https://web.archive.org/web/20041027223537/http://www.reviewcorner.com/software/cluefinders3.html). Archived from the original (http://www.reviewcorner.com/software/cluefinders3.html) on October 27, 2004. Retrieved April 10, 2017. "An exceptional program that should have "classic" status."
3. "The ClueFinders' 3rd Grade Adventures - Parents' Choice Gold Award" (https://web.archive.org/web/20170331031332/http://www.parents-choice.org/product.cfm?product_id=511&from=Riverdeep/The%20Learning%20Company). *www.parents-choice.org*. Archived from the original (http://www.parents-choice.org/product.cfm?product_id=511&from=Riverdeep/The%20Learning%20Company) on 2017-03-31. Retrieved 2017-03-30.
4. "The ClueFinders' 3rd Grade Adventures Recognized Among the Best Children's Software in the World. - Free Online Library" (http://www.thefreelibrary.com/The+ClueFinders'+3rd+Grade+Adventures+Recognized+Among+the+Best...-a054061319). *www.thefreelibrary.com*. Retrieved 2016-09-11.

External links

- *The ClueFinders 3rd Grade Adventures: The Mystery of Mathra* (https://www.mobygames.com/game//cluefinders-3rd-grade-adventures) at MobyGames
- *The ClueFinders 3rd Grade Adventures* (https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0927592/) at IMDb

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